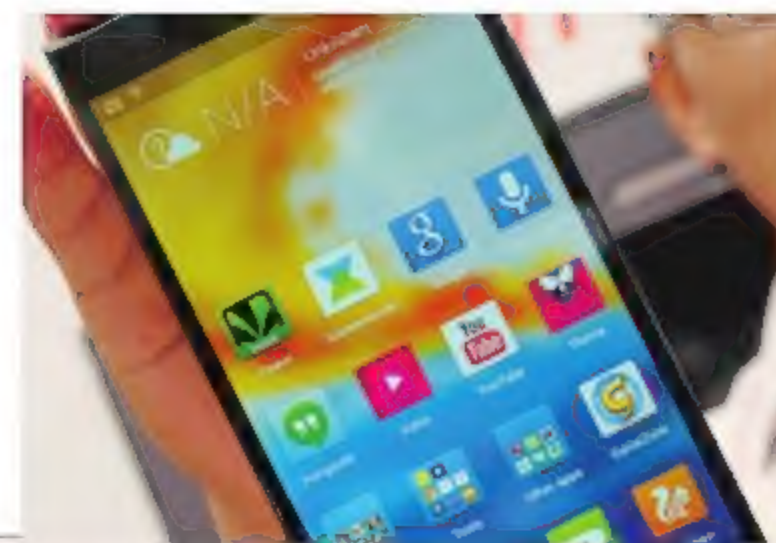




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CHINESE COMPANY PLANTED MALWARE IN 21 MN PHONES

Over 21 million Gionee phones were intentionally infected with Trojan horse malware, a Chinese court has found

INSTALLED THROUGH AN APP UPDATE

The court found that Shenzhen Zipu Technology, a subsidiary of Gionee, secretly implanted the Trojan horse into Gionee phones through the update of the Story Lock Screen app. The app was turned into a tool to profit from Gionee users through unsolicited ads and other unlawful means, according to China Judgment Document Network

COMPANY MADE \$4.2 MN FROM VIRUS

■ The company reportedly made \$4.2 million between December 2018 and October 2019 through the operation of the malware
■ The court has sentenced four persons to up to 3.5 years in jail in connection with the incident. In August, another malware was found in Chinese smartphone brands — Tecno and Infinix

0.39%

GIONEE'S SHARE IN INDIAN SMARTPHONE MARKET, ACCORDING TO STATISTA

VACCINE COMING SOON, SAYS PFIZER

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA
@ New Delhi

PFIZER, the first firm to apply for emergency use authorisation in India, is keen to engage with the Indian government to make its Covid-19 vaccine available for use in the country, the US drug maker told *TNIE*.

The company's application to the Central Drugs Standards Control Organization for emergency use nod of the vaccine, developed jointly with Germany-based BioNTech, comes days after receiving the regulatory approval for the vaccine's use in the UK. It has also sought waiver from carrying out clinical trials in India under the new clinical trial rules.

The results of a late-phase trial of the vaccine in six countries on 41,000 volunteers have shown 95% efficacy against coronavirus.

The vaccine needs to be stored at -70 degrees Celsius.

"Pfizer is dedicated to ensure the availability of this vaccine for use by governments across the world. During this pandemic phase, Pfizer will supply this vaccine only through government contracts based on agreements with respective government authorities and following regulatory authorisation or approval," the company told this newspaper in response to queries.

The firm also said it is in talks with Gavi (the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation) to ensure broad access and supplies to governments.

While government sources confirmed that talks are on with Pfizer, it may not be

practical for the country to procure its vaccine owing to the ultra cold chain supply needed for storage and distribution.

Therefore, the Centre is inclined to depend mainly on Covid-19 vaccines developed, or at least manufactured in the country such as the Oxford vaccine being produced by Serum Institute of India.

Also, the price of the Pfizer vaccine, at \$20 per dose (nearly ₹1,500), is a bit too high for a resource-scarce country like India.

During negotiations with the government, the company had suggested affordable options for storage, such as ultra-low temperature freezer, which is commercially available and can extend shelf life for up to six months.



The second option included specially designed, temperature-controlled shippers in which doses will arrive and can be used for temporary storage units.

"They have also informed us the vaccine vials can be kept in refrigeration units at healthcare facilities for up to five days and can be tracked through thermal sensors to ensure their location and temperature," a health ministry official said, adding, "All these factors are being considered as of now."

Congress asks all state units to support the protest on Tuesday; Left parties, NCP, AAP, TRS, DMK also throw their weight behind agitating farmers

OPPN TO GIVE TEETH TO BANDH



Muslims serve food during the farmers' protest, at Singha on Sunday | Shikhar Yadav

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Bharat Bandh called by agitating farmers on Tuesday received overwhelming support from the Opposition parties, with the Congress, Left and regional outfits throwing their weight behind the protest against the new farm laws.

While the sixth round of talks between the Centre and farmers are scheduled for Wednesday, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar held parleys with his deputies on the scope of concessions to be offered to the farmers.

Congress general secretary, organisation, K C Venugopal issued a statement saying all state units of the party will ex-

tend support to the proposed Bharat Bandh. He added that Congress workers, volunteers and leaders across the country will organise demonstrations in support of the Bandh call given by 32 farm unions.

Maharashtra NCP unit president Jayant Patil said party workers will join the proposed nationwide shutdown.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar is scheduled to meet President Ram Nath Kovind on December 9 over the farm protest.

The AAP has also decided to extend full support to the bandh, the party announced on Sunday with the Delhi convenor and cabinet minister Gopal Rai saying that CM Arvind Kejriwal has extended full support to the bandh call. **P7**

IN SOLIDARITY

KARNATAKA FARMERS TO LEND THEIR SUPPORT

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

ABOUT 50 farmers' organisations in the state have announced their support to the farmers' call for Bharat bandh on December 8, protesting the new farm laws brought by the Centre. They have also threatened to block highways and roads across the state on that day. The next day, they will converge in Bengaluru and lay siege to the Vidhana Soudha.

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha president Kodihalli Chandrashekhara said the bandh will be a non-violent movement across the state. Sugarcane Growers' Association president Kurubur Shanthakumar too said they will support the bandh. Meanwhile, Union minister Pralhad Joshi has urged farmers to come for talks with the government. **P4**

Vijender says will return Khel Ratna

New Delhi: Olympian boxer

Vijender Singh on Sunday said he will return his Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, the country's highest sporting honour, if the Centre does not withdraw the 3 farm laws. Former national boxing coach Gurbaksh Singh Sandhu yesterday denied awarding him his Dronacharya award **P7**

MSP recorded sharper climb under UPA govt

KUMAR VIKRAM @ New Delhi

AFTER the fifth round of talks with agitating farmers, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Saturday claimed that the current government has done more for farmers when it comes to minimum support price (MSP) than any other. However, an analysis of government data shows that under the previous UPA government, the MSP registered a sharper climb than under the present Modi government.

Tomar claimed that in the last six years, there has been "a complete transformation" in the agriculture sector. "Farmers' income has increased, the MSP has increased and government purchase of farm products has increased," he said.

But, data shows that between 2006-07 and 2013-14, there was a 90 to 205% rise in the minimum support price of major crops, including paddy, wheat, arhar, gram, maize and masoor. **P7**

UPA VS NDA: HOW MSP GROWTH COMPARES

Crop	2006-2007	2013-14	Change	2020-21	Change*
Paddy (Common)	580	1,310	126%	1,868	43%
Wheat	750	1,400	87%	1,975	41%
Gram	1,445	3,100	115%	5,100	65%
Tur (Arhar)	1,410	4,300	205%	6,000	40%
Maize	540	1,310	143%	1,850	41%
Masoor	1,545	2,950	90%	5,100	73%

(Rate * per quintal)

*% change in MSP compared to 2013-14

State govt hopes to get lucky with sticky Bills as House meets

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

The Karnataka legislature will convene for the second time amidst the pandemic for the seven-day winter session starting Monday. With the ruling BJP expected to bring a few controversial bills, including those that were stuck in the Legislative Council during the monsoon session, the opposition parties are girding up to take on the government.

The BJP dispensation is keen to table the APMC bill, Land Reforms Act amendment Bill as well as Industrial Disputes and Certain other Laws (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2020, again, apart from the cow slaughter Bill, which the Congress has been fiercely opposing. The JDS is planning to take on the government on farmers' issues and seek relief to flood-affected victims.

Of the seven days, regular sessions, including Question Hour, will be held on five days while the last two days have been reserved for a discussion on 'One Nation, One Election'. As many as 10 bills are expected to be tabled and the government will be hoping to get lucky with their passage. A discussion on the proposed love jihad law can also be expected to raise the heat. **P4**



Speaker Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri inspects the Assembly hall ahead of the winter session | NAGARAJ GADKAL

Minor gangraped, 9-year-old sexually assaulted in S'mogga

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Shivamogga

Two minor girls were allegedly raped in separate incidents in the city on Saturday. While one of the minor girls was abducted from a hospital and gang-raped by four men, the other girl, a nine-year-old, was allegedly raped by a 50-year-old man.

In the first incident, the minor who was taking care of her mother at the McGann Teaching District Hospital for the past one month, was allegedly raped by a ward boy and his friends. On Saturday evening, they took her in a car on the pretext of helping her buy food since most hotels were closed for the past three days following communal clashes. **P5**

MAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT

Leopard on prowl! Stay indoors after dusk

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

ENCOUNTERS of the wild kind are now getting closer home for Bengalureans. With increasing instances of man-animal conflict in an ever-growing city, residents of Nayandahalli near Turahalli and those living around Bannerghatta National Park are being advised to "spend time indoors during cold winter nights" through loudspeakers. This comes after two incidents involving a leopard and a tusker



A leopard reportedly killed five chickens and goat kids late on Saturday night

were reported in these parts.

According to locals and forest officials, a leopard reportedly killed five chickens and goat

kids late on Saturday night in Veerabhadra Nagar, Nayandahalli. Though no recent case of human casualty has been reported, the incident has created a sense of fear among locals.

The police and forest department officials patrolled the area on Sunday, looking for signs like animal footprints and droppings. "After thorough combing of the area, what looked like a pug mark was found at some distance from the sheds where the dead livestock were found," a forest official said. **P5**

A tusker was wandering on the road when the biker noticed it. As the animal tried to charge, the biker fell off the vehicle and fractured his leg
Forest official

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